

**ACTION GREENSBORO MEDIA ALERT**

**GREENSBORO DOWNTOWN RENAISSANCE LLC AND GUILFORD COUNTY TO HOLD GROUND BREAKING**

**Monday, November 18, 2002**

**Contact: Susan Schwartz, Executive Director, 379-0821**

**Greensboro Downtown Renaissance LLC and Guilford County will host a news conference on Wednesday, November 20, at 10:00 a.m. to break ground on the new Guilford County Human Services Building on Maple Street. Speakers will include The Honorable Mike Barber, Chairman of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners, John Shore, Director of the Department of Social Services, and Jim Melvin, President of the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation.**

*Background.* This groundbreaking is for a 120,000 square foot building to be constructed for Guilford County health and social services offices on 10 acres on Maple Street, off of Yanceyville Road, for a cost to the County of \$4.5 million. The total estimated cost of the building is \$9 million. Greensboro Downtown Renaissance LLC will pay for the balance of the cost and be responsible for any cost overruns.

Upon completion of the Guilford County Human Services Building, Greensboro Downtown Renaissance LLC will exchange the building to the County for the County property located at the corner of Eugene and Bellemeade.

Greensboro Downtown Greensboro LLC will build a new minor league baseball stadium on the current County property on Eugene Street that now houses the health and social services functions. The stadium will be constructed at a cost of \$15 million and will be owned by a nonprofit organization. No tax dollars will be used to construct or operate the stadium; although the City will have some infrastructure costs such as sewer and utility relocation and the closing of one block of Lindsay Street.

The baseball stadium is part of the overall Action Greensboro effort to foster an environment that will be attractive for the creation of new jobs. Economic development consultants, corporate leaders, and entrepreneurs say that a community's overall quality of life is critical to recruiting, attracting and retaining jobs. A city's downtown is the most public and noticeable indicator of its overall economic health. Quality of life also includes top-notch public schools, efforts to create and recruit companies and jobs, having opportunities and activities for young professionals, and having a sense of civic pride and responsibility. Action Greensboro has efforts underway in all of these areas. In the three-year period 2001 through 2004, Action Greensboro projects expenditures in the areas outlined above of some \$37 million, all private money.

Action Greensboro's sponsoring foundations are: Joseph M. Bryan Foundation; CEMALA Foundation, Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, Moses Cone Wesley Long Community Health Foundation, Tannenbaum-Sternberger Foundation and Weaver Foundation. Over 1,400 businesses and individuals have joined this effort.

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